

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-13, 16, 17, 19-31, 33 and 34 are pending in this application.

Claims 5, 11-13, 16, 17 and 19-31 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 2, 3, 6, 14, 15, 18 and 32 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 16 and 33 are amended.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the November 16, 2004, personal interview. The following remarks constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

I. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Office Action objects to claim 33. Claim 33 is amended to obviate this objection.

II. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claim 16 has been amended to obviate this rejection.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 14-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of JP 4-1728 to Komori et. al. and JP 9-311326 to Murata et. al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

None of the applied references disclose a light shielding film disposed at a location that opposes a switching element and that is on one of substrates, the substrate on which the switching element is disposed above, as in amended independent claim 1. Furthermore, none of the applied references disclose barrier layers disposed on an upper and lower surface of the metal layer such that side faces of a lower barrier layer and side faces of the metal layer are covered with an upper barrier layer. See, e.g., specification at Fig. 7 and paragraph 175.

The Office Action rejects claims 7-10, 17 and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over AAPA, Komori and Murata, further in view of USP 6,521,913 to Murade. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claims 7-10 and 17 and 33, these claims depend from independent claim 1 which, as discussed above, contains patentable subject matter. With respect to claim 34, this rejection is traversed.

The Office Action recognizes that AAPA, Murata and Murade do not disclose the barrier layers disposed on upper and lower surfaces of the metal layer and the thickness of the upper layer being greater than the thickness of the lower layer. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's assertion that Komori provides the deficiencies of the above references. As discussed in paragraph 35 of the invention, the structure makes it possible to prevent the metal layer from being oxidized when an insulating film is formed on the upper barrier layer and a heat treatment is performed at a high temperature, without necessitating a significant increase in thickness of the light shielding film.

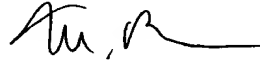
Furthermore, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's assertion that Komori even discloses making the thickness of the upper barrier layer greater than the thickness of the lower barrier layer in the Abstract.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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